

ROCK COUNTY VETERANS TREATMENT COURT GENERAL INFORMATION

Rock County, under the leadership of Presiding Judge James P. Daley (a Marine Vietnam veteran, Purple Heart recipient, and retired Brigadier General of the U.S. Army National Guard), started Wisconsin's first Veterans Treatment Court in September 2009. The objective of the Court is to give veterans who faithfully served their country a second chance by offering them treatment for their substance abuse and/or mental health issues rather than incarceration. This is done under the intensive supervision of the Veterans Court team.



Veterans Court meets twice a month on Thursday afternoons at 3:00 p.m. in Courtroom D at the Rock County Courthouse, 51 S. Main Street, Janesville, WI.



The Rock County Regional Veterans Court is a collaborative effort of the following:

Rock County Circuit Courts
Rock County District Attorney's Office
Office of the State Public Defender
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Rock County Veterans Service Office
Rock County Sheriff's Office
WI State Department of Veterans Affairs
Rock County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Interested in becoming a volunteer veteran mentor?

The peer mentor component of Veterans Court is an integral part of what makes the program work. If you served in the U.S. Armed Forces and are interested in becoming a volunteer mentor and want to support veterans through their journey through the justice system, please contact Denise Davidson, Mentor Coordinator, at 608-322-3194.

Rock County Veterans Court Contact Information

Honorable James Daley, Presiding Judge
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ROCK COUNTY REGIONAL VETERANS TREATMENT COURT



LEAVING NO VETERAN BEHIND

What is Veterans Court?

Veterans treatment courts are hybrid Drug and Mental Health Courts that use those specialty court models to serve veterans struggling with addiction, mental illness, and/or co-occurring disorders. They promote sobriety, recovery, and stability through a coordinated response that involves cooperation and collaboration with the traditional treatment court partners (such as county, city and state agencies), with the addition of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs health care networks, the Veterans' Benefits administration, and veterans' family support organizations. Veterans Court also utilizes volunteer veteran mentors, typically from the same military branch and wartime theater, as the defendant. Mentors encourage, guide, and support the veteran through the Court process.



Who is Eligible for Veterans Court?

- Service in the U.S. Armed Forces
- Eligible for Veterans Service Benefits
- Have a demonstrated treatment need that is treatable

What is the Veterans Court Process?

The District Attorney and defense lawyer agree to allow the case into Veterans Court and a contract for participation is created. Defendants must have a treatment need (such as mental health or substance abuse) in order to qualify for Veterans Court. To determine whether there are treatment needs, the defendant must undergo an assessment by the VA to establish treatment needs, as well as VA eligibility.

The defendant will appear before the Veterans Court judge on a regular basis, at the Court's discretion. The Court will require the defendant to follow through on treatment that is recommended by the clinical staff. Defendants must sign a release of information so the VA social worker on the Veterans Court team can report on the individual's progress

Before and/or after Court, defendants in Veterans Court will also meet with a volunteer veteran mentor. Mentors are neither from the VA nor the Court system (so they cannot give legal advice or do counseling). Their role is to support and guide the defendant through the process.



What happens upon completion?

Upon successful completion of the recommended treatment plan (typically 12 months), the original charges against the defendant are dismissed or reduced (depending on the details of the contract).

Where is treatment provided?

Participants receive treatment at the Wm S Middleton Memorial VA Hospital in Madison, at the VA clinic in Janesville, at a Veterans Center, or other treatment provider as directed.

Are only Rock County residents eligible for Veterans Court?

Rock County's Regional Veterans Court hears cases from Rock County and from the surrounding counties of Jefferson, Lafayette, Dane, Walworth, and Green. The Court has also taken clients from other jurisdictions in Wisconsin that do not have a Veterans Court nearby, on occasion.